



The ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN *from the Savannah River Site*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...

**Current NEPA
actions**
Page 2



**Proposed
privatization
of Multi-
Purpose Pilot
Plant**
Page 2



**SRS develops
Strategic Plan
draft**
Page 3



**EA on com-
mercial low-
level waste
shipment**
Page 3

SRS completes waste transfer loop

The Savannah River Site (SRS) accomplished a milestone this summer by completing a waste transfer loop, enabling site workers to better transfer high-level liquid radioactive waste from storage to treatment.

The loop completion allows waste to be transferred both ways between the site's two tank farms in F and H areas, which maximizes use of the site's two evaporator systems. (Tank farms house 51 underground carbon-steel storage waste tanks.)

The evaporators concentrate liquid high-level waste to about 25 percent of its original volume. The two-way transfers also allow more flexibility in managing avail-

able tank space.

SRS High-Level Waste Division employees worked through a 16-day transfer of 340,000 gallons of waste from Tank 34 in F Area Tank Farm through the Inter-Area Line, a 2-mile underground pipeline between F and H areas tank farms.

The Inter-Area Line is a "pipe-within-a-pipe." Waste is transported within a 3-inch stainless steel pipe, which is surrounded by a 4-inch carbon-steel secondary pipe for leak protection. Any leaked material will be contained within the secondary piping and will travel downhill to a leak collection box.

Comment period ends on discussion drafts

Public comment periods for the national and Savannah River Site Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006 Discussion Drafts end September 9, 1997. These documents were released on June 12, 1997, for a 90-day public comment period. The Department of Energy (DOE) is interested in stakeholder input and is encouraging comments before the next revision of the plan.

In 1996, DOE's Environmental Management Program proposed a strategy to accelerate cleanup and improve productivity, with the focus on completing work at as many sites as possible by 2006.

The discussion drafts were written to describe how this strategy will be implemented. The drafts have been distributed to interested parties to elicit comments on the goals and strategies of the 2006 plan and how those strategies should be implemented.

Additional comments will be solicited on the national and SRS draft plans, scheduled to be released later this year before the initial plan is released early 1998.

For more information or to submit comments, contact the following:

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Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

Document

Status

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (DOE/EIS-0026-52)

Comments are being incorporated into the final Supplemental EIS. the final is expected to be issued in September with a ROD scheduled for October 1997.

Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)

The draft EIS is expected in October 1997 with the final issued December 1997.

Shutdown of River Water System at SRS (DOE/EIS-0268)

The final EIS was issued May 1997, and the ROD is expected in September 1997.

Accelerator for Production of Tritium (DOE/EIS-0270)

Preparation of the draft EIS continues with a proposed issue date in December 1997.

Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)

Preparation of draft EIS began July 1997. Publication of draft EIS is projected for February 1998. The final EIS is scheduled for August 1998. The ROD is scheduled for September 1998.

DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)

Multiple RODs are expected to be issued: TRU in October 1997, HLW in September/October 1997, LLW and LLMW in June 1998.

SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)

Preparation of the draft EIS has been completed, and it is at DOE-HQ for concurrence review.

Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)

The scope of the EIS is being modified based on comments from the public on alternatives. The draft EIS is scheduled for December 1997.

Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)

Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of October 1997.

Tritium Facility Modernization/Consolidation Project (DOE/EA-1222)

Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of October 1997.

DOE Permission for Off-loading and Transportation of Commercial Low-Level Radioactive Waste across SRS (DOE/EA-1218)

The draft EA was sent to South Carolina and Georgia for review and comment on August 26, 1996.

Privatization of the Multi-Purpose Pilot Plant Project Campus (formerly TNX) (DOE/EA-0000)

Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of November 1997.

EA on proposed privatization of SRS facility

The Department of Energy (DOE) determined an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to analyze potential environmental and safety effects associated with establishing Centers of Excellence in the TNX area at SRS.

Potentially, a nonprofit management organization would manage the establishment of industrial partnerships to develop applied technologies in soil remediation, groundwater contamination, and (municipal) solid waste minimization for commercialization.

The proposed action includes DOE contracting a nonprofit entity to serve as a management firm to manage, operate and market (as well as sub-lease) the TNX facilities and equipment (32 buildings, trailers, warehouses, etc.) within the fenced 14 acres.

The area has served as a pilot-scale testing and evaluation facility in support of chemical processes for fuel and target manufactur-

ing and the Defense Waste Processing Facility.

The located area would be used for technology research, development, demonstration, and commercial operations.

The types of Multi-Purpose Pilot Plant Project Campus (MPPPC) activities and businesses may include: research and development in environmental remediation, waste management and vitrification of nonradioactive wastes, metal fabrication and machining operations, and production of chemicals and polymers. Some pilot-scale manufacturing is expected. The goal is to have the campus self-sufficient within three years.

A notification of DOE's intent to prepare this EA was sent to South Carolina and Georgia on August 27, 1997.

To request a copy of the predecisional draft EA, contact Drew Grainger (see contact information on page three of this bulletin).

Draft SRS Strategic Plan developed

Savannah River Site (SRS) staff has begun a sitewide strategic planning process. The first draft is scheduled for release in late September. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments on the draft.

As part of the comment process, writers of the plan are conducting a review of past stakeholder input on significant site activities, including the SRS Future Use Project, discussion drafts of Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006, etc. Writers hope to capitalize on the many valuable comments stakeholders have provided in the past, which have played a key role in shaping the vision of the site's future.

The purpose of the SRS Strategic Plan is to establish a vision for success and related long-term goals, directions, and strategies for achieving that vision. This brief document will define the vision, mission, goals, strategies, and objectives for SRS and is intended to be a high-level plan emphasizing the site's primary functional themes of non-proliferation, national security, and environmental management.

After the draft plan is complete, copies will be

sent upon request. Comments will be accepted until October 13, 1997. Plans are to be finalized and published by the end of October.

For more information or to request copies of the draft or final plan, contact:

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Draft EA on commercial low-level waste shipment

An Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-1218) has been prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to analyze potential environmental consequences associated with commercial shipments of low-level radioactive waste (LLW) across the Savannah River Site (SRS) located near Aiken, South Carolina.

The proposed action would include DOE granting permission to Chem-Nuclear Systems (CNS) to use SRS for landing transport barges at the existing SRS boat ramp and off-loading trailered low-level radioactive waste packages for move-

ment across SRS to the nearby CNS facility.

Project activities would include modification of the aforementioned boat ramp on the Savannah River as needed for off-loading activities, and construction of a bridge across Lower Three Runs.

Based on the potential for impacts described in the final EA, DOE will decide to either publish a Finding of No Significant Impact or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

DOE has provided the predecisional draft EA to South Carolina and Georgia and requested any comments be submitted within

a standard 30-day review period.

Written comments postmarked prior to September 25, 1997, will be accepted and after that date

will be considered to the extent practicable.

Need more info?
Copies of EAs, FONSI, EISs, or RODs, or requests to speak at a public hearing, questions or further information on the DOE NEPA process, contact:

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